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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTRIBUTED 16 October 1952

SUBJECT Soviet Military Activity at St. Poelten and
Spratzern

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED
25X1C
DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS. 2 sketches
(LISTED BELOW) 3 photo negatives (SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The main entrance to the St. Poelten barracks area (See Sketch No. 1), is adjacent to the Kreisgericht building. A company with bordeaux-red service colors and armed with a submachine gun is posted there. A number of soldiers with bordeaux-red service colors and others with black-red service colors, some wearing armored troops insignia, were seen entering and leaving the barracks area. The following details were observed marching through Schiesstattpromenade: One detachment of eleven enlisted men with bordeaux-red shoulder boards entered the barracks area; a second detachment of ten enlisted men with black-red service colors and armored troops insignia, without arms but carrying baggage, came from the railroad station and marched in the direction of Spratzern. One first lieutenant with bordeaux-red shoulder boards and intendance insignia, one first lieutenant with black-red shoulder boards and no service insignia, one second lieutenant with bordeaux-red shoulder boards and medical service insignia, and one master sergeant with black-red shoulder boards and armored troops insignia were also seen.

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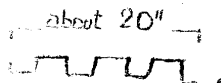
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2. The following officers were seen on Mariazeller Strasse walking toward Camp Spratzern: Two captains and one second lieutenant in tank troop coveralls with armored troops insignia; one second lieutenant with black-red shoulder boards.



3. Camp Spratzern is situated in the area inclosed by Mariazellerstrasse, Stiftergasse and the projected Autobahn. The camp area along Mariazellerstrasse is 334 steps long, approximately 450 yards. (See Sketch No 2.) Two gates at least 20 feet wide, open from Mariazellerstrasse into the compound. No sentries were posted at the gates, but patrolling sentries were seen. The camp appears to be in good condition; recent repair and paint work seems to have been done. Fifty enlisted men were watching a bicycle race on Mariazellerstrasse; they wore black-red shoulder boards.* A railroad siding from the Leobersdorfer Bahn apparently destined to connect the camp with the railroad, leads to a factory next to the northwest corner of Mariazellerstrasse and Stiftergasse.
4. The tank training grounds are situated to the south and west of the camp area. Treadmarks of caterpillar vehicles, some of them fresh imprints, were seen as shown in the sketch below:



Three watchtowers have been installed on the training grounds; they were unoccupied.** There are two fir groves on the slopes to the west of the training area. The southern grove has thick underbrush which makes passage difficult; the northern grove has underbrush along the edges only.*** A number of old trenches and beaten tracks were observed in the latter grove. A tank-shaped target was installed to the west of the area between the two groves.

* ☐ Comment. The capacity of the camp is believed to be 1,000 men; the present strength of troops is not known, but believed to be much smaller.

** ☐ Comment. It is believed that the watchtowers are only manned during tank maneuvers.

*** ☐ Comment. Torn branches seem to indicate that the groves are patrolled.

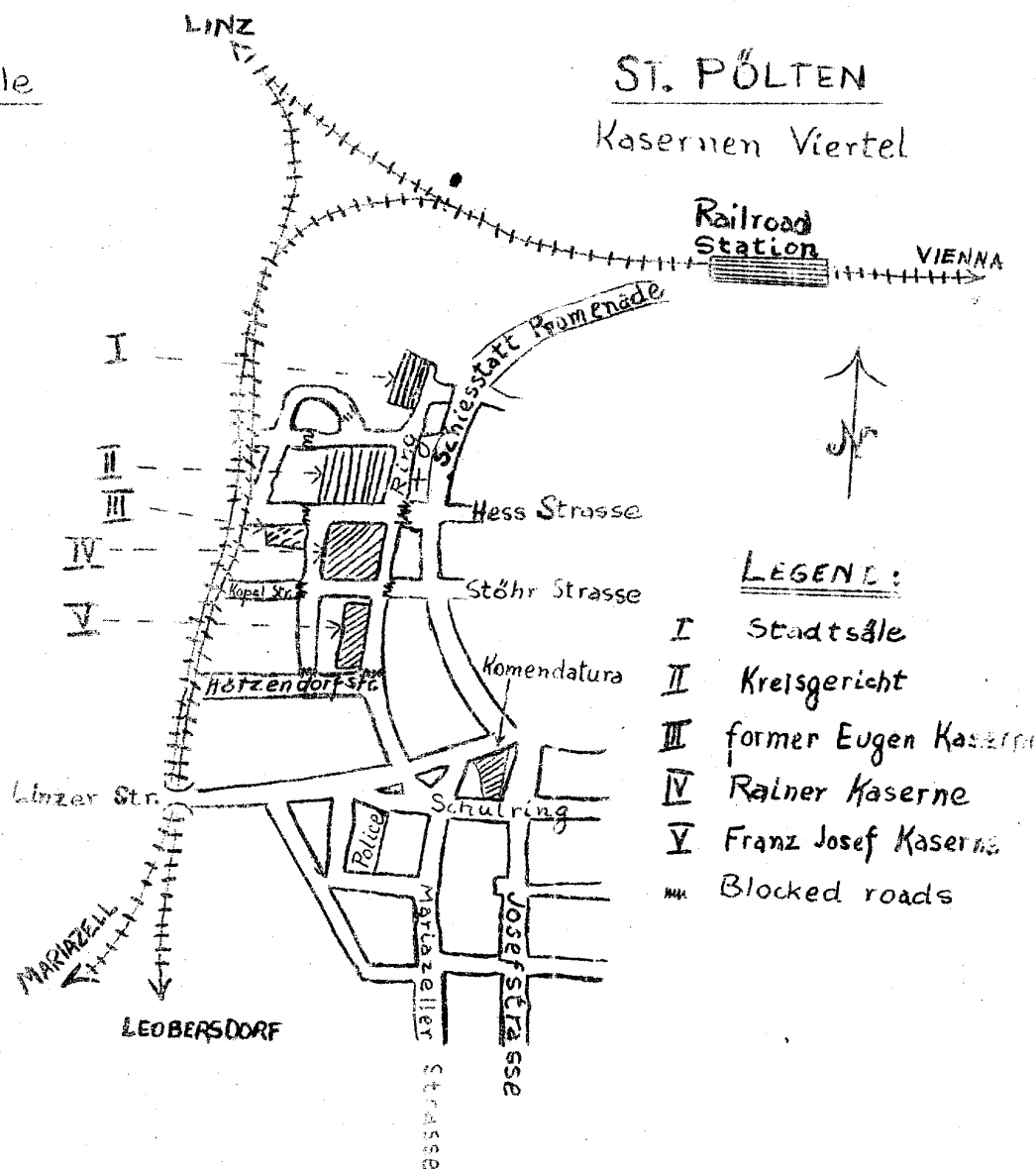
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SKETCH No. 1.

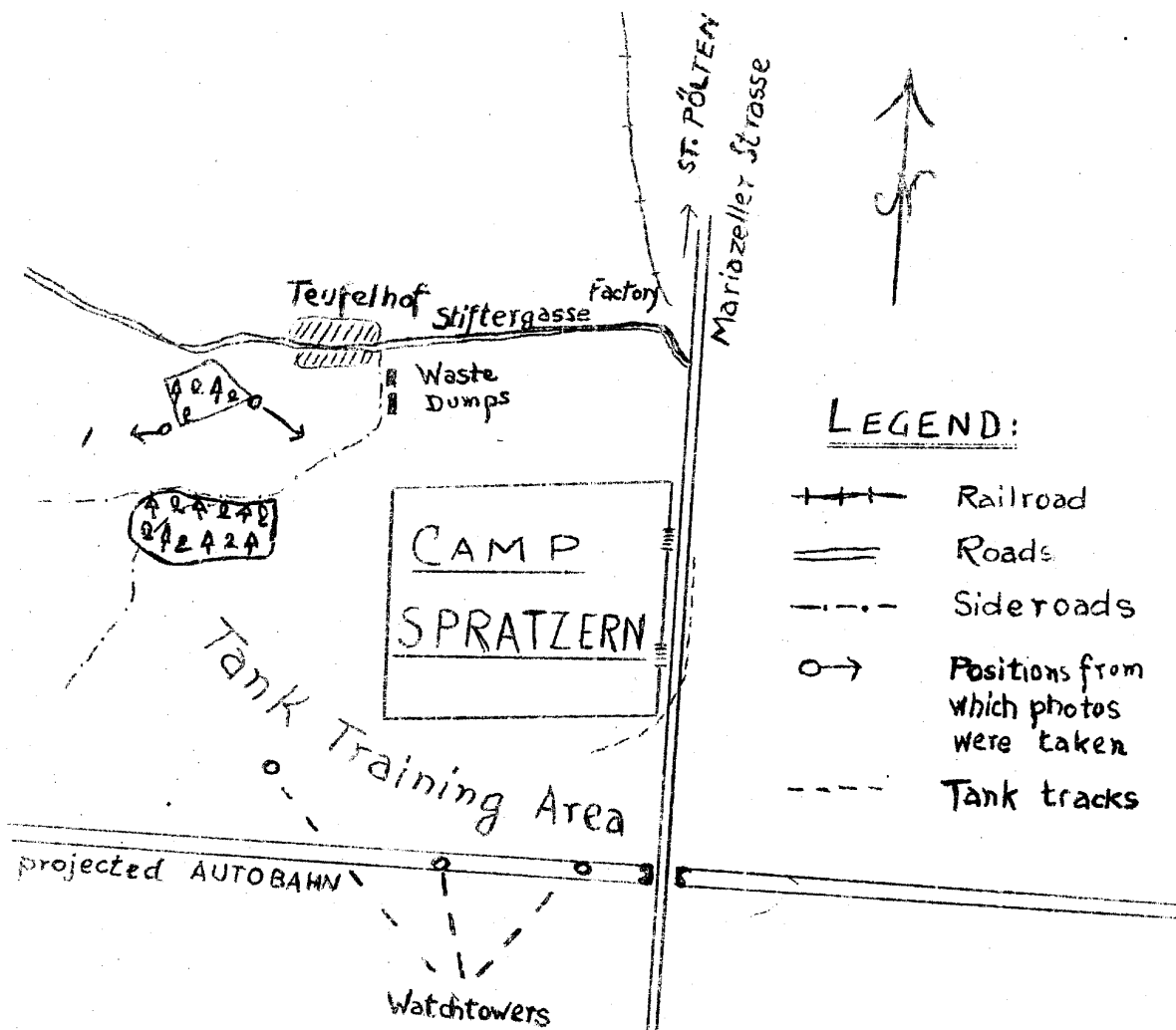
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SKETCH No. 2.

Rough SketchScale 1:10,000LEGEND:

- +--- Railroad
- == Roads
- - - - Sideroads
- Positions from which photos were taken
- - - - Tank tracks

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